

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I apologize for some of the confusion on the floor. I think we have things worked out now. The concern that I had, the first paragraph that Senator Beutler brought was something that was developed in concert with the administration, and even that was flawed after we looked at it. But the second paragraph dealt with the question of limiting clearly and concisely and absolutely the possibility of additional funding. And I want to make it clear for the record that the concern I had was in discussions with the Department of Social Services that if it was too restrictive, if the language was too restrictive that we might not see any implementation of this proposal or it would be slowed down so severely that there probably wouldn't be any federal funding by the time they got it done because of the time involved in actually implementing the act. So I...I...I rise in support of the Beutler amendment because it is in fact the intent of what we're trying to do, but I also hope it isn't a straitjacket that puts us into a situation where absolutely no additional funds come in as a result of this. So it's with trepidation that I'd suggest we adopt the Beutler amendment, not because it doesn't...isn't the same as the thrust of the bill, but if you get too tight a language you end up not being able to do anything and then we forego several million dollars in additional funding because of a situation where we aren't absolutely within an absolute limit. So I'm anxious about this, but I think at this point adopting it is going to be okay. And one of the main reasons I've changed my mind on this is now the administration, instead of going to a waiver, is going to go to a plan amendment, and they feel that they will be able to implement that easier than a waiver. And I guess I'm saying that if there is any problem with implementing this, if this takes forever and we miss the chance on this, I will be one unhappy State Senator, and not at Senator Beutler, because I know he's trying to do the right thing. But the department, because I think if there is a problem with this it falls in the lap of those implementing it. And the intent that we've had is the same intent we've had all along. But I don't want some amendment we've adopted giving any cause for somebody to sit down and do nothing when we absolutely want to see something done. It's with that statement that I rise in support of the Beutler amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator